

Appleby Archaeology Newsletter



Spring 2006

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Archaeological Research in The Eden Valley

Archaeological research in Cumbria is looking healthy at the moment. We are fortunate to have several projects, based around the Eden Valley, looking at the prehistory of the area. These projects also provide opportunities for becoming involved in fieldwork for those who want to participate.

Living Among the Monuments

This project, reported in the last edition of the newsletter, is run by Penrith Museum. The focus is on Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement in the vicinity of Long Meg and Her Daughters stone circle and the henges of Mayborough and King Arthur's Round Table at Penrith. An exhibition is underway at the museum, and a field-walking project is being planned to identify settlements within the area of the monuments. Several members of the group have already volunteered to take part in the project and the museum will contact these shortly. Full training will be given by the fieldwork coordinator, Aaron Watson. If you wish to take part, and have not already volunteered, you can contact the museum direct on 01768 212228. Website: www.eden.gov.uk

Excavations at Glencoyne

Andrew Hoaen and Helen Loney of Glasgow University have been working in the Ullswater Valley for several years now. With the help of volunteers and students they have been conducting landscape survey and have identified settlement activity spanning the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods. They have also excavated two settlements at Baldhowend and Glencoyne. This year they are continuing to excavate a cairn at Glencoyne with the help of volunteers. If you wish to participate the excavation will be on Sundays from May onwards. Andy and Helen will also be coming to Appleby

to talk to us about their project in September.

Contact Andy on 01387 268743
Email: a.hoaen@crichton.gla.ac.uk

Survey work at Kirkland

Our own project at Kirkland will continue this year, with the survey of a possible prehistoric settlement on the fellside above the village. We will be there around Easter time and members are very welcome to come and take part. The survey is the next step in developing an understanding of the site, and will hopefully lead to more detailed investigations later in the year.

For further details contact Martin on 01768 88318 Email: martin@fellside-eden.freeserve.co.uk

Prehistoric Cumbria

Prehistoric Cumbria is the theme of two PhD projects which are currently underway at Durham University: Kate Sharp is looking at Prehistoric Rock Art and Landscape. She has also been involved in a project which used laser scanning to record rock art sites in Cumbria. She will be talking to our group in November this year.

I am also undertaking a project looking at Prehistoric and Romano-British Settlements in Cumbria, focusing in particular on the Iron Age period. This is a long-term project as I am doing it part-time. But there will be opportunities to become involved in the future. I will be using field survey, geophysical survey, excavation and GIS to investigate a period about very little is known in our region.

Martin Railton

Lancaster University Archaeology Forum

Each year in March the Centre for North-West regional Studies of Lancaster University holds an Archaeology Forum. The Forum brings together all those interested in the archaeology of the North-West including Cumbria, to hear updates on excavations and research of the past year. Unfortunately the North-West sometimes does not have enough active archaeology in a year to fill the day and so it was this year but it was no detriment as Lawrence Keppie told us about recent work and ideas on the Antonine Wall, so often overlooked by fans of Hadrian but essential to an understanding of the Roman presence in the North. We also heard Fraser Brown on the fascinating discoveries at Ferry Bridge in Yorkshire where over 60 new sites from the Neolithic to the post-medieval were excavated. The area north of Ferry Bridge was a funeral monument landscape with an agricultural and settlement landscape at nearby Castle Hill with a long history of man's presence. One of the excavated sites was an intact and marvellously preserved chariot burial at Ferry Fryston, an event which made the national news.

Back in the North-West, Dot Bruns was up-to-date on recent discoveries via the Portable Antiquities Scheme (she gave us an excellent talk in December) she was followed by John Roberts who talked about one of the region's few long-term research excavations on an Iron-Age hill fort at Mellor near Stockport. The work at

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Members Evening 2006

Our Annual General Meeting on January 10th was followed by talks by two of the group's working archaeologists.

Martin Railton spoke first and his title was *Run out of Time Team; Working as a Field Archaeologist in North East England*. Martin works for Archaeological Services, Durham University, which undertakes commercial work, runs student training digs and community projects. Martin noticed early on that someone had written across one of their vans "Run out of Time Team" a reflection on the impact that series has made on public awareness of archaeology.

Martin explained that much of the commercial archaeology undertaken is a result of PPG 16 (Planning Policy Guideline 16), which sets out the government policy on archaeological remains and how they should be preserved and recorded. It makes the developers responsible for any impact of a development on the archaeological resource. Any development from building an extension to a house to a full scale urban development has to go to the County Archaeologist who then determines the nature of the archaeological work to be undertaken. It then goes out to tender to archaeological contractors. The Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) set the standards and guidelines for field work.

The types of archaeological work that may be undertaken fall into five main categories: desk-based assessments, archaeological evaluations, excavations, watching-briefs and building recording. Initially a desk based assessment, involving documentary and map research, is done to determine the likely extent of archaeological remains, and the strategy to deal with them. A field evaluation may follow to investigate the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area. This may be done by geophysical survey or by digging trial trenches or test pits. This may reveal the need for an excavation to examine and record the archaeological remains in the specified area. There is a requirement to disseminate the information obtained. Martin gave as an example the redevelopment of a car show room site in Newcastle where test pits showed evidence of Hadrian's wall and further

excavation revealed the wall, ditch and rows of defensive pits called 'cippi' pits. The archaeology has now been preserved and the foundations of the proposed flats at the site have been redesigned to avoid damaging the wall.

Another category is a watching brief when work is monitored so that any archaeological deposits can be recorded and if practical preserved. This would be asked for when the presence of deposits is likely but can not be identified in advance. Martin illustrated this with pictures from the demolition of brick works at Crook County Durham where nine early kilns were identified and a photographic survey and record was made before new building work proceeded.

The fifth category is the archaeological recording of standing structures to compile lasting records and to formulate a strategy for conservation, alteration or repair. Martin illustrated this category by the drawings and photographic survey done at a former Italian prisoner of war camp at Harperley near Crook. Twelve buildings including sleeping huts, cook house, canteen, chapel, officers mess and cells were recorded prior to the redevelopment of the site as a leisure facility.

Martin concluded by saying that one aspect of his work that he enjoyed was the variety and never knowing where the next project might be or what the archaeology might reveal.

Trish Crompton, who works for North Pennines Archaeology, followed by speaking of her experience of *Digging in Slovakia*. She has spent the last two summers running 6 week training excavations, for up to seven British students, at a monastery in Slovakia, under the supervision of the local museum director. The project is funded by the EU, organised through Grampus Heritage and Training Ltd based in Cumbria.

Slovakia is a small central European country which gained its independence in 1993. The site is at Sahy near to the Hungarian border and the monastery stands on a hillock above the river Ipel. The extant monastery is 18th century. Below this building are the remains of a monastery which was first built in the 12th century and was

sacked by the Ottoman Turks in the 16th century. The building was used until the 1950s and plans to restore it were abandoned with the fall of Communism. The current excavations hope to discover and record more of the original buildings. To date trenches have revealed evidence of earlier floor levels, walls and timbers and signs of burning probably at the time of the sacking. The first artefact found was a metal window shutter from the 18th century building. To date three skeletons have been found. Sadly there are few back up services such as dating, a very different picture that described by Martin.

Slovakia has rich heritage of medieval buildings and many remain unspoilt. At the weekends Trish and her students travelled to see some and the group were shown some beautiful photographs of these buildings. One example was Spis Castle, a spectacular medieval castle, dating from the 13th century, which stands in the Tetras Mountains near the Polish border. It is one of the biggest complexes of its kind in central Europe and is now being developed as a tourist attraction. Several sites had sequences of buildings from medieval to gothic to Russian Orthodox covering a period of over 600 years. Trish concluded her talk by describing Budapest and showing photographs of buildings dating from the medieval period to the very recent past. One such modern building is a museum built to record the history of the Second World War and the Communist Regime and named The House of Terror.

Phyllis Rouston

Dilston Castle and Chapel

At the February meeting, Trish Crompton spoke about the conservation and restoration work that has been done by North Pennine Heritage Trust to restore Dilston Castle and Chapel.

The Dilston site, lying south of the river Tyne 2-3 miles east of Hexham, consists off a partially derelict building with an associated chapel, which is virtually intact. The site is owned by MENCAP and in the stewardship of North Pennines Heritage Trust.

The history of the site goes back about 800 years. The castle, a fortified tower was built c1417 at the time of the Border raids. Relics of an earlier castle or manor house can be located in the present ruin. In the late 16th to early 17th century the tower was altered to become a more comfortable dwelling. Later it was incorporated into a grand mansion owned by James Radcliffe, 3rd Earl of Derwentwater. The Radcliffes of Dilston owned the manor for two centuries and were one of the prominent Roman Catholic families in the north of England. All was lost when the 3rd Earl took up arms to support his cousin, Prince James, in the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion. He was later found guilty of treason and beheaded as was his brother 30 years later. Most of the house was demolished in 1768 and the building that remains, in a derelict condition, was part of the original tower. The better preserved Dilston Chapel was built c1616 by Sir Francis Radcliffe, and is a rare example of a Reformation recusant chapel designed for Roman Catholic worship at a time when it was against the law.

English Heritage became interested in the site and decided to invest in a project to examine and consolidate the extant buildings and to produce a record of the site prior to, during and after conservation. At the same time the project would try to identify the different phases of the building over the centuries by examining documentary records, by digging a series of trial trenches and by recovering any artefacts, especially those that would assist in dating. The archaeological work was led by Frank Gie-

co of North Pennines Archaeology.

Trish referred to a series of handouts which included early maps of the site, copies of 18th century engravings of the hall and chapel, early architect's plans ,and recent photographs of the ruins of the castle. The old plans of the castle showed the extent of the building and determined the positions of the trenches to try to establish the extent, complexity and depth of the remains. A number of slides were shown to illustrate features of the castle and chapel before and after consolidation. The tops of walls exposed to the elements posed a major problem as did the mullions and sills of windows. All had to be made safe and any features conserved and restored using the appropriate materials for example lime mortar.

The chapel suffered less during the demolition. The roof, although almost intact, was leaking and needed replacing and in the process an earlier roof was found partially intact with bone pegs still holding the slates. Within the chapel, scars of the gallery, in which the Earl and his family would have sat were seen. That gallery is now reinstated and the interior of the chapel restored. Some excavation of the crypt was possible but limited by fourteen coffin rests, formed by pairs of brick piers. From documentary evidence it is known

that six coffins were removed from the crypt in 1874 and that they dated from 1696 to 1726. An intact sealed lead coffin dated to the latter half of the 16th century was exposed but has not yet been opened. One trench revealed a medieval pot and neonate bones. One fascinating find was a collection of clothes possibly left hidden by a fleeing Jacobite.

Dilston Castle and Chapel were opened to the public in 2003 although much remains to be discovered. Further work is planned for the grounds, the carriage way to the hall, an for the restoration of the 17th century Lord's Bridge which spans Devil's Water below the hall.

There many questions from the floor and the chairman, in his vote of thanks, suggested that a site visit could be the best way to answer some of those questions.

Phyllis Rouston

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Mellor has been running for eight years and is a community project supervised by Manchester University Archaeology Unit. Over that time the volunteers have discovered the site was multi-occupied from the Mesolithic to the present day and work continues. Across in Cheshire at Heronbridge there is another volunteer site run by the Chester Archaeology Society and supervised by David Mason, now County Archaeologist for Durham County (he is coming to talk to us about the site in April 2007). Here the discovery of a mass burial of hacked about skeletons with good Carbon-14 dating for two of them firmly suggests the men died in the Battle of Chester fought c616 AD, an event of national importance.

Helen Loney came much nearer home to another on-going project in Glengoyne Park and talked about the place of cairn fields in the prehistoric landscape. Helen suggested that often the piles of stones we call cairns were more than the result of just field clearance and may have had a ritual significance in a monumental landscape. Finally Richard Newman, County Archaeologist for Cumbria, brought together work done by the Holme and District Historical Society and others on the development of Dalton-in-Burton. Dalton has a complex of well preserved earthworks at its centre and historians and archaeologists have often speculated on their purpose. Applying modern techniques of landscape analysis has helped a better understanding of the settlements development and of the earthworks. Overall an interesting and enlightening day out with three good examples of how local volunteers and professionals can work together on long term projects.

Harry Hawkins

Harry Hawkins

Summer Events

Oddendale Walk

Thursday 18th May 2006

An evening walk to Oddendale stone circle and the cairns on Iron Hill above Crosby Ravensworth. Meet by the cattle grid at Oddendale, grid ref NY592134 at 7.00pm. Quarter mile walk (rough moorland but level-ish) to circle, 1 mile (good path, slightly uphill) to cairns. Tel Martin 017683 61131

Dilston Castle Trip

Sunday 18th June 2006

Following Trish Crompton's talk in February, we shall be visiting Dilston Castle and Chapel on Sunday, 18 June. Frank Giecco, who led the excavations and restoration of the castle and chapel, will give us a guided tour which may include an inspection of the crypt. To make a full medieval themed day, in the morning we will visit Aydon Castle, a remarkably preserved medieval fortified manor house also near Hexham. Travel will be mini-bus so spaces are limited.

Cost: Mini-bus: £10 with reduction if we fill the bus! Entrance to Aydon Castle: £3.40 (English Heritage Members free); Entrance to Dilston Castle and Chapel: £4.00. Packed lunch. Afterwards we can have tea in the Castle Café which sells light refreshments.

Depart: Appleby Moot Hall, 9.00am, return between 5.00 and 6.00pm. Travel via Culgaith and Alston to Hexham.

To Book: Complete and return the enclosed form (with payment) to Harry Hawkins.
Telephone 01768 864340

Newbiggin Hall

Tues 13th July 200

An evening visit to Newbiggin Hall, Newbiggin, Temple Sowerby by kind permission of Mrs Sawrey-Cookson. Meet at the Hall at 7.00pm. Anyone who wants a lift please contact Phyllis on 017683 53463.

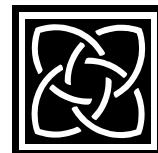
Request to Members with Email

If you are a member and have an Email address, would you please send it, as an email message, to our Secretary, Phyllis Rouston. This will help us with keeping you informed about group events and last minute changes. Thank you.

Send an email with the header:
"Appleby Archaeology Group"
 to p.rouston@btopenworld.com

Help Wanted with Group Website

We would like to start a website for the group to help publicise our events and share information. However nobody on the committee feels they have the time or expertise to develop the idea. If you have any skills or experience you feel you could share, please call Harry on 01768 864340



SENDER:

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